THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (c) As per the extant policy, the caps on foreign investment for various activities under the Broadcasting sectors are as under:

S.No.	Activity	Cap on foreign investment
1.	FM Radio	20%
2.	Cable Network	49%
3.	Direct-to-Home (DTH)	49% with FDI component not exceeding 20%
4.	Up-linking, HUB etc.	49%
5.	Up-linking of News & Current Affairs TV Channel	26%
6.	Up-linking of Non-news & Current Affairs TV Channel	100%

The policy on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is reviewed on a continuing basis through an inter-ministerial consultation process.

Index of industrial production

2513. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether index of industrial production has recorded a rise of only 7.5 per cent in December, 2007 from 13.4 per cent a year ago;

(b) if so, whether the year 2008 began on an ominous note with industrial growth dipping to 5.3 per cent in January, 2008 less than half of what was recorded in the same month of last year;

(c) if so, whether industrial growth continues slow down in the February and March; and

(d) if so, what are the main reasons and steps Government proposes to take to improve the position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (c) The industrial growth, measured in terms of Index of Industrial Production (IIP), was 7.7% in December, 2007, 5.8% in January, 2008 and 8.6% in February, 2008 (latest data available) compared to 13.4%, 11.6% and 11.0% respectively for the corresponding months of the previous year.

As per the latest data, for the first 11 months (April-February) of the financial year 2007-08, the industrial growth was 8.7% compared to 11.2% during the corresponding period of previous year.

(d) In a market driven economy, the growth of various industries is influenced by market-forces of supply and demand. The deceleration of the industrial growth is due to a combination of factors such as rise in interest rates, rupee appreciation etc.

The Government has put in place various policies to promote broad based industrial growth. This includes, *inter-alia,* delicensing of industrial capacity, liberalization of foreign trade regime to provide better access to inputs at competitive prices, rationalization and reduction in duty rates of customs and central excise, better infrastructure support, and liberal FDI regime, etc.

Government has announced several relief measures for export oriented industries, which includes enhancement of the Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB), reduction in Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) premium by 10% enhancement of the rates of duty drawback, interest subvention of preshipment and post-shipment credit, refund of service tax, raising the revenue ceiling for Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana.

In the Budget 2008-09, the Government has proposed reduction in excise duty across the board from 16% to 14% to boost the domestic demand for the manufacturing industry. In addition, the Government has also proposed reduction in excise duty from 16% to 12% in the Budget 2008-09 for Small Cars, Motorcycles, and Scooters etc. to give boost to the domestic consumer durable manufacturing industry.

The Government has since approved a proposal to create Information Technology Investment Regions (ITIRs). These ITIRs would be endowed with excellent infrastructure and supported through investor-friendly policies. With a view to improve the competitiveness of Indian industries, particularly, the micro, small and medium enterprises, the Government has also approved a proposal to set Mini Tool rooms in the country under Public Private Partnership (PPP) Mode, in co-operation with State Governments/Industries/Associations/ Companies/NGOs/Individuals.

Lifting of ban on non-basmati rice

2514. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the request of farmers to lift the ban on non-basmati rice., which is mostly grown in Andhra Pradesh to around 40 lakh tonnes per year and being exported from Kakinada port in the last few years to around 3.20 lakhs;

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken by Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Non-basmati exports have been banned in order to control the rise in the price of domestically available rice.

Extension of anti-dumping duty on raw silk

2515. SHRI SAYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the request of sericulture farmers to extend the